

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Prior to this response, the application included claims 1-31. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if amended to be in independent form and to include the features recited in base claim 1. Accordingly, in the interest of expediting allowance of this application, Applicants have incorporated dependent claim 13 into claim 1 and rewritten claim 14 to include the features recited in the original base claim 1. Applicants are considering a possible continuation application to pursue possible broader protection of their invention. Applicants have also added new dependent claims 32-38. Claims 2-12 and 34-38 depend from amended claim 1, and claims 16-24, 26, 27, 32 and 33 depend from amended claim 14.

Applicants have also canceled claims 13, 15, 25, 28-31. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 14, 16-24, 26, 27, and 32-38 are presented for examination, with claims 1 and 14 being in independent form.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 12, 15, 16, 18-22, 25 and 28 as anticipated by Su (U.S. 6,132,028). The Examiner also rejected claims 9-11, 17, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 29-31 as unpatentable over Su. We submit that these rejections are moot in view of Applicants amendments and cancellation of claims as discussed above.

With respect to Applicants added claims, newly added dependent claims 32-38 correspond to originally-filed dependent claims 5, 8, 20, 26, and 16-18, respectively. We submit, therefore, that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 14 are patentable.

Applicant : Andreas Bibl et al.
Serial No. : 10/749,816
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Page : 7 of 7

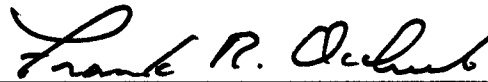
Attorney's Docket No.: 09991-150001

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request favorable action in this application. Please apply any other charges, not covered, or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket Number 09991-150001.

Respectfully submitted,

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